



# Concord

Some of the  
things to be  
seen there



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# Concord



*Some of  
the things  
to be seen  
there*

TEXT PREPARED BY GEORGE TOLMAN  
*Secretary of Concord Antiquarian Society*



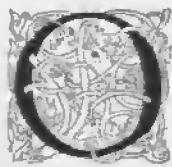
H. L. WHITCOMB  
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
NINETEEN HUNDRED THREE



NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.



MONUMENT SQUARE.



ON September 2 (O. S.), 1635, the General Court of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay ordered that there should be a "plantation at Musketaquid, and that there shall be six miles of land square to belong to it," and that the place should be called Concord. The name Musketaquid, meaning simply the grass-ground, or meadows, was probably already well known, for it is mentioned by William Wood in his "New England's Prospect," printed in England in 1633. The place was, or had been, the site of a considerable Indian village, and perhaps for that very reason

appeared a most desirable spot for English settlement. It was well watered by two considerable rivers, which were full of fish, and which flowed through a broad alluvial plain, divided only by a low range of sandy hills, and almost entirely cleared of wood, though the low hills that surrounded it were well wooded and accessible. The population of the colony was then rapidly increasing by immigration, and although no settlement had yet been made away from tide-water, it was still evident that such settlements must be made before long, and desirable locations were eagerly sought. These meadows, the largest expanse of cleared and cultivable ground that had yet been found in the limits of the colony, attracted the attention of Simon Willard, a man of great ability and decision, and it appears quite certain that it was at his instance and through his reports that the company that came hither was formed.

Of this company, the Rev. Peter Bulkeley, an English clergyman of great learning and ability, who had been deprived, for non-conformity, by Archbishop Laud, of his living at Odell, Bedfordshire, England, was the spiritual leader, along with the Rev. John Jones. The latter, however, remained here but a few years. The land for the new settlement was fairly bought from its Indian owners, perhaps at a bargain, or as a Concord poet of later days has sung :—

.. "A few more jack-knives might perhaps have made  
A bit less sharp our worthy fathers' trade ;  
A few more blankets might have shown their hearts  
Warmer by some degrees. The casuist starts  
This point of conscience ; I the question spurn ;  
The kindest bosom, exile shall make stern,  
And days of danger, nights of want and gloom,  
Brush from the sensibilities the bloom."

But at any rate the land was bought and paid for, and its savage grantors were so well satisfied with their bargain, that in all the Indian wars which followed, Concord was almost the only town in the entire colony that never suffered from an Indian raid upon its territory; though, to be sure, one farm was raided and one man was killed in "the New Grant," an addition made to the town some years after its settlement, and later set off again.

It is commonly held that it was this peaceful mode of settling its Indian question that gave to the town its name of Concord, a name unknown until that time as the designation of any town, although it has been stated by later inquirers that it was the name that had been given by Peter Bulkeley, long before, to his old English residence at Odell.

It may be of interest here to mention that the literary history of Concord begins with its political and social history, and possibly even antedates it. It is maintained by some writers that the William Wood, whose "New England's Prospect" was printed in 1633, was identical with the William Wood who died in Concord in 1671. This may not certainly be proved, but even if we have to give him up, we can fall back upon the Rev. Peter Bulkeley as our earliest author, whose book of sermons, preached to his Concord flock, was printed in London, under the title of "The Gospel Covenant," in 1646, and is styled "the first-born of New England." The sermons are hard reading for us of this age, but in their own time were highly appreciated, and passed through several editions.

But it is not the purpose of this little book even to epitomize the history of the town, literary or otherwise, but only to serve as a brief guide to the chance visitor or the transient

tourist, who may perhaps choose to purchase it and carry it away with him as a souvenir of what we hope may prove to him a pleasant and memorable visit to one of America's principal shrines. So we shall presuppose his acquaintance with Concord authors, and with Concord history at least so far as the broader lines thereof, and shall content ourselves with pointing out the principal places of interest.

The visitor, however he come to Concord, will naturally start on his tour of observation from the Monument Square, which, it may be remarked, is exactly the geographical centre of the original six miles square granted to the first settlers. In the centre of the square stands the Soldiers' Monument, a granite obelisk bearing on one side of its base the names of the forty-two sons of Concord who perished in the Secession War of forty years ago. On the southwest side of the square a bronze tablet marks the site of the old Town house, which was also the County Court house, from whose turret rang out the bell that called the farmers to arms in the early morning of April 19, 1775. Later on that day the soldiers set fire to the building, only to turn to and use their best efforts to extinguish it again when they learned that the rebels were using it as a storehouse for gunpowder. The old Court house has long passed away, but the vane that swung above it for a century and a half, with the date 1673 carved upon it, is now preserved in the Public Library. Another tablet, a few steps down the Lowell Road, marks the site of the dwelling of the Rev. Mr. Bulkeley. The northwest side of the square is occupied by a row of buildings now kept as a hotel, a part of which was used in the early spring of 1775 as a storehouse for the arms, provisions, and other war material that the patriots had been



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT (CIVIL WAR).

busily collecting through the preceding winter. This, however, is scarcely a distinction, for the town had become practically the only commissary depot of the patriots, and almost every house and barn contained a part of these valuable stores, the

destruction of which was the object of General Gage's unsuccessful raid of April 19.

A walk of about half a mile up Monument Street, to the north, brings the visitor to the Old North Bridge, the scene of "Concord Fight." And, by the way, if the visitor desire to



BATTLE GROUND.

stand well with Concord people, he will never allude to this affair as the Battle of Concord; it is always Concord Fight, here. In 1775 the river was crossed by only two bridges, the second, or "South Bridge," being a mile and a half further up the stream. At the North Bridge, the road on the further bank of the river crossed the meadow, and after reaching the firm

ground divided into two, following parallel with the stream in both directions. The point at which the Provincial forces gathered, on the brow of the hill, three hundred yards beyond the bridge, is marked by a tablet set in the wall, and by a boulder, with a suitable inscription, in the grounds of the late Edwin S. Barrett, a great-great-grandson of Col. James Barrett who commanded the patriot force on the 19th of April, '75. A few rods to the north is visible the house then occupied by Major John Buttrick, who gave to his troops the first order ever given to American rebels to fire upon the soldiers of their king. The bronze statue of the Minute Man, by Daniel C. French, "the most artistic statue that stands out of doors in America," dedicated by



MINUTE MAN.

the town on the centennial anniversary of the fight, stands on the spot where this "all-irrevocable order" was given. On the hither side of the stream stands the monument erected by the town in 1836, and bearing the following inscription:—



REVOLUTIONARY MONUMENT (1836).

Here  
on the 19th of April 1775  
was made the first forcible resistance to  
British Aggression.  
On the opposite bank stood the American Militia  
Here stood the invading army,  
and on this spot the first of the enemy fell  
in the War of that Revolution  
which gave Independence to these United States.  
In gratitude to God and in the love of Freedom  
This monument was erected  
A.D. 1836.

The following stanza from Emerson's hymn, sung at the dedication of this monument, is carved upon the pedestal of the statue of the Minute Man:—

By the rude bridge that arched the flood.  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
Here once the embattled farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard round the world.



OLD NORTH BRIDGE.

A stone in the wall, within a little enclosure, marks the grave of two British soldiers who fell in this first skirmish and were buried by the side of the road, the very first of that great

army of Britons that England sacrificed in her fruitless endeavor to subjugate her rebellious colonies.



"OLD MANSE."

Just south of the Monument grounds, at the end of a long avenue of once stately but now decaying trees, stands the house to which Nathaniel Haw-

thorne, sixty years ago, gave the name of "the Old Manse," by which, misnomer as it is, the house has been ever since known, at home and abroad. The house was built just before the opening of the Revolutionary War, by Ralph Waldo Emerson's grandfather, the Rev. William Emerson, then minister of Concord, and from its window the reverend gentleman beheld the fight at the bridge. Very early in the war he joined the American army as a chaplain, but was not fated to see much active service, for he died of fever in October, 1776. Many years afterward a monument was erected to his memory in the Hill Burying Ground in Concord.

After Mr. Emerson's death, the Rev. Ezra Ripley, who had succeeded to the pulpit and had married the widow of his pre-

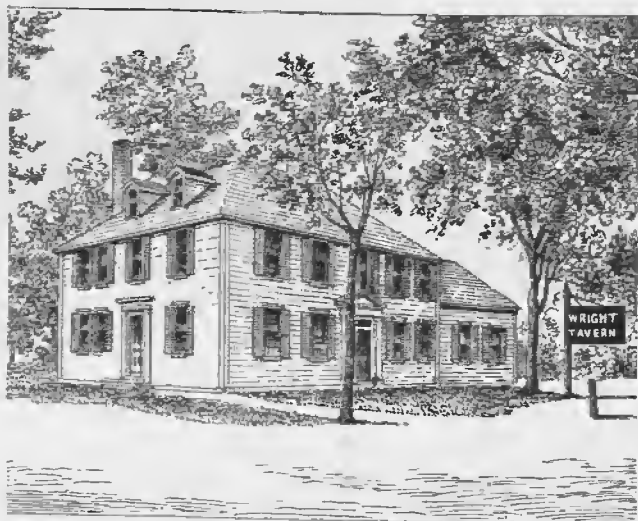
decessor. occupied the house until his death in 1841, after a pastorate of more than sixty-three years, and the house is still owned by his heirs. During Dr. Ripley's life the house was not only the intellectual centre of Concord, but was a very notable centre of light and learning in the whole intellectual world of New England, for the great Unitarian movement that so powerfully affected the New England church and all later New England literature, came about during his pastorate, and found in him an earnest and active promoter, so that his house was often the meeting place of many of the thinkers and idealists of the time. Here, too, Ralph Waldo Emerson and his brothers,



ELISHA JONES HOUSE.

grandchildren of Mrs. Ripley, often came, and it was here that many of Emerson's early poems, as well as his first published book, "Nature," were written. But it is from Nathaniel Hawthorne's connection with the house, even though such connection was very brief, that the Old Manse, as he named it, is best known. Here he wrote the "Mosses," his first important work, the one that foreshadowed his greater literary efforts, and that showed to the reading world that here was an American writer of imaginative literature who easily "led all the rest."

Nearly opposite the Manse is "the Elisha Jones house," now occupied by the venerable Judge John S. Keyes, who has



OLD WRIGHT TAVERN.

all Concord history at his fingers' ends. Though many additions have been made to the original house, the building may still fairly be called the oldest house in Concord, for the portion erected by John Smedly in 1644 still stands. Near one of the doors of this house may still be seen the hole made by a British bullet fired at Elisha Jones as he was coming out of his door on the morning of Concord Fight.



FIRST PARISH MEETING HOUSE.

Retracing his steps to Monument Square, the visitor will see on the corner of Main Street the old Wright Tavern, built in 1747, the headquarters of the patriots in the early morning of April 19, 1775, and later in the day occupied by the British officers. Here Major Pitcairn is said to have made his famous boast, as he stirred his morning dram, that before the day was over he would stir the damned Yankee blood as well. Perhaps he never said it, but at any rate the Yankee blood *was* stirred

effectually. The First Parish Meeting House stands next, built in 1901 to replace the ancient structure that had been destroyed by fire in the year 1900. The old building, erected in 1712, was the meeting place of the first Provincial Congress,



CONCORD ANTIQUARIAN HOUSE.

in October, 1774, and a tablet on the edge of the green commemorates this fact. Daniel Bliss the great-grandfather, William Emerson the grandfather, and Ezra Ripley the step-grandfather of Ralph Waldo Emerson had been successively the ministers of this parish; R. W. Emerson himself had some-

times preached from its pulpit, and from the doors of its old house of worship the bodies of Thoreau, Hawthorne, Emerson, Judge E. R. Hoar, Sherman Hoar, and many others of Concord's most famous citizens, were borne to the grave.

The house of the Concord Antiquarian Society stands near, on the left side of Lexington Road. This house was occupied in 1775 by Reuben Brown, a saddler, who made cartridge boxes, belts, and the like for the patriots; and the British soldiers, on the morning of April 19, in endeavoring to destroy the worthy saddler's stock of war material, managed (quite unintentionally, for they were under strict orders not to injure private property,) to set fire to the house. This was the only private house that was damaged by them in Concord, and the fire was quickly extinguished. Since 1886 the house has been occupied by the Antiquarian Society, and contains a large and varied collection of old china, furniture, and relics, all accumulated in Concord, among them the sword of Col. James Barrett, the musket of one of the British soldiers who fell at the North Bridge, the cutlass of a grenadier of the 10th British regiment, and other relics of Concord Fight. One room in the house is devoted entirely to Thoreau relics.

A few rods beyond, on the right hand side of the road,



EMERSON HOUSE.



"ORCHARD HOUSE."

stands the home of Emerson, where he lived from 1835 until his death in 1882. It is a comfortable looking and unpretentious mansion, of the architectural style of the early part of the nineteenth century, partly hidden from view by a group of pines. Mr. Emerson's study, the

room at the right of the entrance, remains just as he left it, and the entire external appearance of the house is unchanged from what it was when the master was living there. Here was passed the greater part of Mr. Emerson's life after he abandoned the narrow limits of the pulpit and took for his congregation the thinking men and women of the world, and here all his later and ma-



CONCORD SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY.



LOUISA M. ALCOTT.

turer works were written. No house in America has sheltered so many of the world's literary men, for almost every person of note who has visited America has found that his visit would be incomplete without seeing and being welcomed in his own home by the greatest of American writers and thinkers.



"WAYSIDE."

A little further on, on the left side of the road, is the "Orchard House," once the home of the Alcotts, and the birthplace of the Concord School of Philosophy, in 1879. Later the little chapel on the hillside, somewhat to the rear of the house, was built, and therein the later sessions of the school



RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

were held. The "Wayside," the next house beyond, is perhaps better known as the residence of Hawthorne for the last twelve years of his life, than from its connection with the Alcotts, who had lived there several years before Hawthorne, the years that gave to Louisa Alcott the experiences and incidents that form the basis of her delightful stories. But the



E. W. BULL.

stories themselves were written in the Orchard House, or "Apple Slump," as Louisa preferred to call it. Hawthorne built the square tower of the Wayside, and from his study in the tower sent forth all his latest books. The larches which shade the hill between the Orchard House and the Wayside were planted by Hawthorne, and the path worn among them by his restless feet may still be traced. George Parsons Lathrop, whose wife was Rose Haw-

thorne, lived for a time at Wayside, a writer whose early death removed one of the most promising of the younger American men of letters. Daniel Lothrop, the publisher, was a later owner of the place, and here still resides his widow, who, as Margaret Sidney, has acquired merited fame by her charming juvenile books.

Possibly the Concord Grape is known to more people than Concord Literature, Art, or History. It originated in the garden of Ephraim W. Bull, the next place beyond the Wayside, and the original vine, whose progeny covers nearly every land, still flourishes there.



MERIAM'S CORNER.

Lexington Road, as the visitor will at once notice, runs close to the base of a low sandy ridge from Monument Square to Meriam's Corner, about a half mile below the Wayside. This is the road over which the British force entered the town on the morning of April 19, 1775, and over which they made their so far orderly retreat before noon. After the skirmish at the bridge, the Provincials, knowing that the troops must inevitably soon retreat, forbore to assail them further where they were, but marched through "the great field" so-called, behind the ridge, and waited at the point of the hill to attack them in flank. The manœuvre was successful, and at this point a sharp encounter took place, in which seven of the enemy fell. From this point the retreat became a rout. The story of it is familiar, and needs not to be entered upon here. A tablet in the wall

marks the spot. The "Virginia Road" joins the old Billerica Road a few rods from this point. On it stands the house in which Henry D. Thoreau was born, but as the house has been moved from its original location and greatly altered, it is only the most enthusiastic or the most leisurely of visitors who will care to take the extra mile walk.

A walk around by the old Billerica Road from Meriam's Corner until he comes to the car track, and then following the car track on Bedford Street toward the left, will take the tourist over the most uninteresting mile and a half of road in all Concord, and bring him to Sleepy Hollow Cemetery at the point furthest from the town, but not far from the end of Ridge Path, on which are the graves which he will most care to see, that of Emerson, marked by a large boulder of rose quartz, with this inscription:—

RALPH WALDO  
EMERSON

BORN IN BOSTON MAY 25 1803  
DIED IN CONCORD APRIL 27 1882

THE PASSIVE MASTER LENT HIS HAND  
TO THE VAST SOUL THAT O'ER HIM PLANNED

the couplet being a quotation from Emerson's own poem, "The Problem;" that of Hawthorne, surrounded by such fragments of an arbor-vitæ hedge as the zeal of souvenir-seeking tourists has allowed to remain standing; those of the Alcott family nearly opposite the Hawthorne lot, and of the Thoreaus almost adjoining. Below, on the hillside, are the graves of the Hoar family, recognizable afar off by the rather ungainly structure of dark granite that marks them. Traversing the length of the cemetery, the tourist will come out on Bedford Street, a few

rods from Monument Square from which he started. The old Hill Burying Ground, abutting on the Square opposite the end of Main Street, contains many ancient and curious epitaphs, the oldest bearing the date 1677. Here are



EMERSON'S GRAVE.

buried Col. James Barrett and Major John Buttrick, the patriot commanders in Concord Fight; the Rev. William Emerson and his father-in-law, the Rev. Daniel Bliss; Dr. John Cuming, whose bequest to Harvard College was the foundation of the Harvard Medical School; John Jack the Negro, whose epitaph is the most famous epitaph in America : —

God wills us free, man wills us slaves,  
I will as God wills, God's will be done.

HERE LIES THE BODY OF  
JOHN JACK,

A native of Africa who died  
March 1773, aged about 60 years.  
Tho' born in a land of slavery  
He was born free.

Tho' he lived in a land of liberty,  
He lived a slave,  
Till by his honest, tho' stolen labors,  
He acquired the source of slavery,  
Which gave him his freedom;  
Tho' not long before  
Death, the grand tyrant,  
Gave him his final emancipation,  
And set him on a footing with kings.  
Tho' a slave to vice,  
He practised those virtues  
Without which kings are but slaves.



PUBLIC LIBRARY.

lic libraries. Besides its 35,000 books, the library contains paintings by Edward Simmons, Stacy Tolman, Edward W. Emerson, Robertson James, and Alicia Keyes, and busts by Daniel C. French, Frank E. Elwell, Walton Ricketson, and Anna Holland, all Concord

A few rods from the Square, at the junction of Main and Sudbury Streets, is the Public Library. The building was erected and given to the town, with funds for its maintenance, a generation ago, by William Munroe, a native and citizen of Concord. The town itself pays for the books and the salary of the librarian. A special alcove is devoted entirely to books of Concord authors, a feature unique, we think, among all pub-



THOREAU-ALCOTT HOUSE.



HENRY D. THOREAU.



MAIN STREET.

artists, as well as a number of paintings and busts by others.

Continuing up Main Street the visitor will see, just before reaching Thoreau Street, the house in which Henry D. Thoreau lived for the last ten years of his life, and in which he died. Afterward the house was purchased by Louisa Alcott, who lived there for a while with her father and her sister, Mrs. Pratt. Just around the corner, on Thoreau Street, lives Allen French, author of the successful novel, "The Colonials," and of several books for boys. On Elm Street, a few rods beyond the junction of Elm and Main, in a modest house on the edge of the



THOREAU'S CAIRN.

half south of the village, is reached by way of Walden Street. Here, if the visitor is fortunate, he may find, without a guide, the spot where Thoreau built his house in the woods, and which he celebrates in the most charming and

river, lives Frank B. Sanborn, biographer, essayist, social scientist, and poet; and in his house, not long ago, died William E. Channing, "the poet's poet," who for many years had made his home with Mr. Sanborn.

There are some excursions that the tourist may make further afield. Walden Pond, a mile and a



RESIDENCE OF F. B. SANBORN.

best known of his books. It is marked by a simple cairn of stones, which easily escapes observation. On the Barrett's Mill road, in the northwest part of the town, two miles and a half from the village, is the old home of Col. James Barrett, to which, on April 19, 1775, the British commander sent two companies of soldiers on a predatory errand that after all did not brilliantly succeed. Not far from there, on the old road that runs round the base of Annursnuc Hill, and that was anciently called "Ye Hog-pen Walk," is the site on which stood one of the buildings used by Harvard College when that institution was temporarily located at Concord during the siege of Boston. The Hog-pen Walk perforce became the College Road, and is so called to this day. But journeys to these places, and to the countless spots in the woods and on the river, that have no peculiar historical or legendary associations, are beyond the reach of the transient visitor of a day, for whom this book is written.

**Copies of Tablets to be found in different parts of the Town.**

*On a panel cut in Egg Rock.*

ON THE HILL NASHAWTUCK  
AT THE MEETING OF THE RIVERS  
AND ALONG THE BANKS  
LIVED THE INDIAN OWNERS OF  
MUSKETAQUID  
BEFORE THE WHITE MEN CAME

*On a stone by the road, northwest of the Minute Man.*

ON THIS FIELD  
THE MINUTE MEN AND MILITIA  
FORMED BEFORE MARCHING  
DOWN TO THE  
FIGHT AT THE BRIDGE

*Provincial Congress Tablet.*

FIRST PROVINCIAL CONGRESS  
OF DELEGATES FROM THE TOWNS OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
WAS CALLED BY CONVENTIONS OF  
THE PEOPLE TO MEET AT CONCORD ON THE  
ELEVENTH DAY OF OCTOBER 1774  
THE DELEGATES ASSEMBLED HERE  
IN THE MEETING HOUSE ON THAT DAY  
AND ORGANIZED  
WITH JOHN HANCOCK AS PRESIDENT  
AND BENJAMIN LINCOLN AS SECRETARY  
CALLED TOGETHER TO MAINTAIN  
THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE  
THIS CONGRESS  
ASSUMED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE  
AND BY ITS MEASURES PREPARED THE WAY  
FOR THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION

*On a panel in a stone west of the Three-Arch bridge.*

ON THIS FARM DWELT  
SIMON WILLARD  
ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF CONCORD  
WHO DID GOOD SERVICE FOR  
TOWN AND COLONY  
FOR MORE THAN FORTY YEARS

*Tablet at Meriam's Corner.*

THE BRITISH TROOPS  
RETREATING FROM THE  
OLD NORTH BRIDGE  
WERE HERE ATTACKED IN FLANK  
BY THE MEN OF CONCORD  
AND NEIGHBORING TOWNS  
AND DRIVEN UNDER A HOT FIRE  
TO CHARLESTOWN

*On a bronze plate on Lowell Street, near the Square.*

HERE IN THE HOUSE OF THE  
REVEREND PETER BULKELEY  
FIRST MINISTER AND ONE OF THE  
FOUNDERS OF THIS TOWN  
A BARGAIN WAS MADE WITH THE  
SQUAW SACHEM THE SAGAMORE TAHATTAWAN  
AND OTHER INDIANS  
WHO THEN SOLD THE RIGHT IN  
THE SIX MILES SQUARE CALLED CONCORD  
TO THE ENGLISH PLANTERS  
AND GAVE THEM PEACEFUL POSSESSION  
OF THE LAND  
A.D. 1636

*On the slate in the wall of the Hill Burying Ground.*

ON THIS HILL  
THE SETTLERS OF CONCORD  
BUILT THEIR MEETING HOUSE  
NEAR WHICH THEY WERE BURIED  
ON THE SOUTHERN SLOPE OF THE RIDGE  
WERE THEIR DWELLINGS DURING  
THE FIRST WINTER  
BELOW IT THEY LAID OUT  
THEIR FIRST ROAD AND  
ON THE SUMMIT STOOD THE  
LIBERTY POLE OF THE REVOLUTION

*Town House Tablet.*

NEAR THIS SPOT STOOD  
THE FIRST TOWN HOUSE  
USED FOR TOWN MEETINGS  
AND THE COUNTY COURTS  
1721-1794

# H. L. WHITCOMB

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*Others in preparation*





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cord's historic and literary spots, and woodland and meadow  
scenes, may be seen or purchased at H. L. Whitcomb's.

